

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control unit for an internal combustion engine can activate a three-way catalyst at the early stage and can lessen the deterioration of the exhaust in an internal combustion engine such as HC, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>, etc. from the exhaust gas when starting. The control unit for an internal combustion engine is provided with the three-way catalyst and HC adsorbent on an exhaust side. The control unit alternately controls the A/F between a rich state and a lean state in order to quicken the activation of the three-way catalyst when the internal combustion engine starts.